

IN TOUCH

With Upland Schools

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UUSD BUDGET WATCH

At Board of Education meetings in March, the UUSD Board of Education reluctantly voted to make a number of budget reductions and adjustments to resolve a projected \$15 million deficit for the 2010-11 and 2011-12 school years.

As a result, the Board was able to certify the district's Second Interim Report as "positive," meaning UUSD is on target to meet its financial obligations—although another shortfall is expected if state revenues don't improve.

To help bridge the gap between revenue and expenditures, school board members voted to approve a number of measures, including: increased class sizes in grades K-3; elimination of the elementary PE pull-out program; reductions in district office and site administrator positions; reductions in classified employee positions; the reallocation of categorical dollars from programs that are now flexible as a result of recent legislation; and the use of one-time emergency resources—such as federal stimu-

lus dollars and the district's supplemental reserve funds.

Even with these extraordinary and drastic actions, the district must still identify approximately \$5 million in cuts or reallocations in order to maintain a positive certification. With limited solutions left, the district has joined with our employees to explore negotiated solutions to remedy the deficit.

HOW WE GOT HERE

Though Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger had publicly vowed to protect education from further reductions, his budget proposal for 2010-11 poses significant challenges for school districts across the state by recommending another \$2.5 billion in cuts. This comes on the heels of the \$17 billion stripped from public schools over the last two fiscal years.

Specifically, the spending plan released in January increases UUSD's operational shortfall from \$12 to \$15 million over the next two years.

It is important to remember



that the Governor's proposal represents the starting point for negotiations that will ultimately result in a state budget for the fiscal year that begins on July 1. That means UUSD's bottom line could worsen or improve before the deliberations are over; however, due to a number of statutory deadlines, school districts must take critical steps to balance their budgets by mid-March.

The next major budget milestone comes in May, when the governor is expected to share the latest fiscal information as part of his "May Revise." Note that UUSD may need to take additional steps if the state picture changes leading up to the adoption of a state budget.

To stay informed, and to share your ideas and suggestions, visit the district website at www.upland.k12.ca.us, and select "Breaking News."

LISTENING TO LEARN: PARENT SURVEY 2010

Each year, the UUSD Board of Education adopts a Strategic Plan for Student Achievement, setting key priorities to support a high quality education for each student, every day.

This year, the Board directed staff to "develop a site and district annual satisfaction survey to be collected from parents and employees at all schools and departments." The common purposes of the surveys are to: 1) identify emerging needs or opportunities; 2) measure the effectiveness of

school or department climates and cultures; and 3) use the data to set goals for continuous progress and improvement.

During a time of diminishing resources and budget challenges, it is more important than ever to *know*, not *guess*, parents' and employees' perceptions of our services.

Prior to the week of May 3-7, printed forms will be sent home with all students in the elementary and junior high schools, with instructions to complete

and return the survey by Friday, May 7. During that same week, parents of students at Upland High School are invited to visit the school's web site at www.uplandhigh.org to complete an on-line version of the survey.

The anonymous survey and the data it provides will help gauge our successes and identify any concerns that can be addressed in the upcoming year. We pledge to be responsive listeners and share the results with parents in the fall.

BOARD OF EDUCATION

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MICHAEL VARELA

COMMUNITY LEADERS SENT TO THE PRINCIPAL'S OFFICE

Not everyone has the chance to go back and revisit their school days. Not everyone wants to. But on March 18, community leaders from Upland got up early, steeled their courage, and experienced first-hand the duties of a principal in the Upland Unified School District.

The district's annual Principal for a Morning program handed over the keys to schools located within the district's boundaries to business, nonprofit and civic leaders. Each Principal for a Morning worked side by side with a school principal to experience the rewards, challenges, and satisfaction that come with being the chief executive of a twenty-first century public school.

Principal for a Morning is a powerful catalyst for civic involvement, building ongoing relationships between the Upland Chamber of Commerce and the

city's schools. According to organizer Sherri Black, "By combining forces, schools and business leaders can work hand in hand to ensure that today's students are properly equipped and prepared to meet the business and civic needs of tomorrow – this is truly a partnership with the potential to strengthen our future."

The day opened with a warm welcome and continental breakfast at district headquarters and ended with a hosted luncheon where participants shared stories about the extraordinary opportunities they encountered during their hours in the principal's office. Experiences were as unique as the schools themselves. This year's participants included:

- Cabrillo: DeDe Golden, City of Upland Community Development
- Citrus: Donna McClenahan, Graphics via Donna

- Foothill Knolls: Susan D'Amico, Owner of Star Struck Event Planning
- Hillside High: Emy Shibukawa, Primerica & Upland Brethren in Christ
- Magnolia: Jeff Ray, Project Manager for PCM3
- Pepper Tree: Beth Mack, Realtor with Weichert Realty, Foothill Properties
- Pioneer JHS: Eric Hanson, Owner of Inland Productivity Solutions
- Sierra Vista: Lisa Day, Owner of Angel Care Community Services/Angel Care on Wheels
- Sycamore: Siana Ahmed Rodriguez, The Ahmed Team at Blackstone Realty
- Upland HS: Tracey Lawrence, Zurich North America
- Upland JHS: Maria Glasheen, Upland Chamber of Commerce
- Valencia: Eric Grubb, Cucamonga Valley Water District

"It's not enough in today's challenging world to just love our kids. We must give them the tools to be prepared to cope with life's challenges in a caring and humane way. It's our job to give them the direction they need to avoid negative influences, and become successful, caring human beings."
 – Dr. Michele Borba

A SECOND HELPING OF DR. MICHELE BORBA!

On December 1st, parents and community leaders from Upland gathered in the UHS Highlander Auditorium to listen to, and learn from, Dr. Michele Borba. Dr. Borba is a best-selling author and a frequent guest on television shows such as Oprah, Dr. Phil, and the Today Show, where she shares proven strategies for boosting empathy, conscience, and self-control in the lives of our children.

Sponsored by the Upland Council of PTAs and the Upland Unified School District, Dr. Borba's inspiring keynote address was titled, "Parenting for Character: Raising Socially Responsible Kids Who Do the Right Thing," based on her best-selling book *Building Moral Intelligence*.

If you were not one of the 400 parents in attendance that night, or if you would enjoy a "second helping" of Dr. Borba's powerful message, simply tune in to the school district's cable access Channel 17 to view a taping of that night's presentation, produced by the UHS Video Production Team.

Monday, April 26 through Friday, April 30 at 7:30 p.m. on Channel 17

MEASURE K UPDATE: UHS GYMNASIUM CONSTRUCTION UNDERWAY

Notice anything new as you drive down San Antonio, just south of Foothill Blvd? On February 22nd, following years of planning and preparation, the district broke ground on a new gymnasium and classroom complex at Upland High School. The primary funding for this effort is Measure K, Upland's voter-approved general obligation bond that included this important project as a top priority. Designed by local firm DC Architects, with input from UHS staff and parent leaders, the blueprint includes a 20,000 square foot structure that will house a practice gymnasium and seven classrooms. Sitting immediately west of the current gym, the exterior façade will incorporate the finishes of adjacent buildings to enhance the "curb appeal" from San Antonio Drive.

The \$4.9 million contract was awarded to ASR Constructors, Inc. This bid fell well below the estimated price tag of \$8 million by taking advantage of a highly competitive bidding climate - and costs will be further offset by state matching funds. Construction is expected to be completed by February 2011 and the facility will immediately be put to good use!

Measure K projects will continue this summer at six school sites: Cabrillo, Foothill Knolls, Magnolia, Sycamore, Upland Junior High and Upland High School. This phase of 21st Century modernization is scheduled to begin on June 9, with a July 30 completion date.

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